

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the third terminal is accompanied by a dummy capacitance operating as a dummy of the non-target capacitance component, and means coupled to the capacitance measurement section for providing a capacitance value of the second capacitance component by calculating the outputs of said first to third current detectors. Basis for this means is found at equation 4 on page 15. New Claim 30 further recites that the dummy capacitance has the same capacitance value as the non-target capacitance component. Basis for this is believed to be clear from original Claim 1.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fan et al. in view of Chen. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims define over this reference.

The claims now recite a capacitance measurement circuit including means coupled to the capacitance measurement section for providing a capacitance value of the second capacitance component by calculating the outputs of first to third current detectors. Fan et al. discloses, at Fig. 5, a capacitance measurement circuit but does not measure the capacitance value of the second capacitance component. Chen discloses a system with one off chip current meter but does not disclose a measuring circuit for measuring the capacitance value of a second capacitance component using three current detectors. Since neither of these references teaches measuring the capacitance value of the second capacitance component, the amended claims define over this prior art.

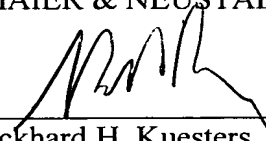
As for the rejections of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, neither Oosawa et al. nor Fried et al. provides a teaching for overcoming the shortcomings of Fan et al. and Chen with respect to a measuring circuit for measuring the capacitance value of a second

capacitance component, and so the amended claims define over any combination of these references.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)